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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A binarizing section generates binarized data from an image signal of a dot code on an information recording medium read by a code reading section. The binarizing section has a reference dot detection section, a dot area measuring section, a threshold value modifying section and a threshold value determining section. The reference dot detection section binarizes the image signal with a predetermined threshold value prior to generating binarized data to detect a reference dot from a binarized code image. The dot area measuring section measures the area of the reference dot detected by the reference dot detection section. The threshold value modifying section modifies the threshold value for binarization in such a manner that the area measured by the dot area measuring section approaches a predetermined target value. The threshold value determining section binarizes the image signal with the threshold value modified by the threshold value modifying section.